

FA brings welcome firepower to front lines



Photo by Cpl. Keith Kluwe, 109th MPAD

A 120 mm mortar team at Fire Base Harriman fires an illumination round to the north of the base during a live-fire exercise. Fire Base Harriman is next to the Afghan city of Orgun-e near the Pakistani border. The mortar teams train nearly everyday for when they are needed during a hostile engagement.

By 1st Lt. Cory Angell
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SHKIN, Afghanistan — The soldiers of C Battery 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., are providing crucial support for missions along the Afghan boarder with Pakistan.

The range and firepower of their 105mm howitzers is a large increase over the 120mm mortar and is hampering the enemy's ability to launch rockets on U.S. forces.

"The rocket attacks have slowed down quite a bit," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Stockert the senior enlisted man for the two-gun section.

Stockert said they have not only been firing counter battery and targets of oppor-

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Help desk helps to ease computer anxieties

By Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Internet problems, computer login failures and being kicked off the domain may not be the first things thought of when considering military operations. However, when a unit's mission depends greatly on the availability of computers, these problems can be very frustrating.

To help ease the frustration and anxiety of troops who depend on modern-day technology to complete their day-to-day operations, the Bagram Help Desk has offered some reasons and solutions to common problems troops have been experiencing.

"Most of the computer problems that have come across our desk recently have to do with computers being kicked off the domain because they weren't properly put on it in the first place," said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Moog, C Company, 327th Signal Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Every computer that is on the domain has to come through us first so we can give that computer an address and input the

proper anti-virus software before it is used. If this is not done or done improperly, the computer may eventually be kicked off the domain," he added.

Other problems people have been experiencing could be due to an illegal use of lines and government software.

"Connecting personal computers to a local area network or using a hub to create multiple lines from one drop is considered an illegal use of LANs and the computer will be kicked off the domain.

"Other illegal uses such as surfing the net for pornography or trying to download viruses are prohibited here just like in the States and are punishable by (the Uniform Code of Military Justice)," said Moog.

In some cases, things may be fine for a while and then suddenly, the computer is no longer on the domain. According to the help desk, there are a few reasons for this.

"About a week ago, an auto-block program was implemented ... a program that scans for all computers that are on the do-

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



As many as 300 officers from the Michigan State Police and surrounding jurisdictions have moved into the small Michigan town of Benton Harbor, hoping to prevent more violence after two nights of rioting triggered by the death of a black motorcyclist fleeing white officers. The city has declared a state of emergency and imposed a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew.

Police line streets of Benton Harbor after nights of riots

BENTON HARBOR, Mich. — As many as 300 officers from the Michigan State Police and surrounding jurisdictions moved onto the streets of this economically depressed small town Wednesday, hoping to prevent more violence after two nights of rioting triggered by the death of a black motorcyclist fleeing white officers in a high-speed chase.

The city has declared a state of emergency and imposed a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew for children under the age of 16. Adults going to and from work are not affected by the curfew.

The rain that began Wednesday evening may also discourage people from gathering outside.

Benton Harbor Mayor Charles Yarbrough urged residents to stay home.

"The burning must stop, the rocks must stop, people must stop being hurt," Yarbrough said after Tuesday's violent protests left five homes burned and at least 10 people injured.

Leading Saddam aide caught

WASHINGTON — U.S. forces in Iraq have captured Gen. Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti, who was Saddam Hussein's personal secretary, national security adviser and senior bodyguard, Pentagon sources said



Pentagon sources say Gen. Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti, left — former personal secretary and senior bodyguard to Saddam Hussein — has been captured.

Wednesday.

Mahmud is the ace of diamonds in the U.S. military's deck of 55 most-wanted Iraqis and No. 4 on the list behind Saddam and his sons Uday and Qusay.

Mahmud may know a lot about the location of Iraq's possible weapons of mass destruction and whereabouts of the former Iraqi leader, one official told CNN.

Pentagon sources said he was captured Monday in a raid by U.S. special operations forces near the north-central Iraq town of Tikrit, along with other members of Saddam's special security forces.

Iranian fire protests

PARIS — Iranians in Paris and London set themselves on fire Wednesday to protest a French government crackdown on Iranian dissidents opposed to religious rule in Tehran, police in both cities said.

Two Iranian women and a man set themselves on fire in Paris. Police initially said the women died, but hospital sources later said all three were alive, with one person in critical condition.

Marzieh Babakhani, who police said was about 40, set fire to her clothes at a protest at an Interior Ministry office near the Eiffel Tower early in the day, police sources said.

The other woman, Segigheh Mojaveri, 38, set herself ablaze later at the same pro-

test. Hospital officials had said she was put on a respirator while being treated for severe burns.

The man, whose name was not known, set himself alight later in the day.

Fugitive Max Factor heir captured in Mexico

CNN — Cosmetics heir Andrew Luster, the object of an international manhunt after fleeing in the middle of his trial on rape charges, was captured in Mexico by a bounty hunter, according to a spokeswoman for the bounty hunter's bail bond firm.

The Los Angeles, California, FBI office confirmed the man taken into custody was Luster.

Luster, 39, was spotted Tuesday night in a Puerto Vallarta nightclub by Honolulu-based bounty hunter Duane "Dog" Chapman, said Beth Smith, an executive assistant at Duane Chapman's Bail Bonds. Chapman detained Luster and then contacted the FBI and Mexican authorities, she said.

Daily News in Potter lawsuit

NEW YORK — A New York newspaper is facing Harry Potter and the order of the court.

Author J.K. Rowling and publisher Scholastic are suing the *New York Daily News* for unauthorized publication of excerpts of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix." The book is scheduled for release one minute after midnight on June 21, but the paper published a plot synopsis and brief quotes from the 870-page novel in its Wednesday edition.

The suit was filed in federal court in Manhattan Wednesday and seeks damages in the tens of millions of dollars, according to a Scholastic press release. A copy of the lawsuit was not immediately available.

"We will vigorously defend any action and are confident we did nothing wrong journalistically or legally," Ken Frydman, a spokesman for the Daily News told CNN Wednesday.

The article, by Tracy Connor, was written from a copy of the book that was being sold ahead of the release date at a health food store in Brooklyn.

New York VFW donates phone cards

By Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Phone cards can be a servicemember's lifeline home. One 10th Mountain Division soldier has recognized that and is bringing some assistance.

Sgt. 1st Class James Sheets, Combined Joint Task Force-180 Nuclear, Biological and Chemical operations noncommissioned officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., requested 2,050 Operation Uplink phone cards through the Veterans of Foreign Wars in New York. Sheets is the New York VFW Operation Uplink chairman.

Currently Sheets has donated 650 60-minute cards to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation here, but 1,400 more are on the way.

MWR will give the cards to Bagram's sergeants major on Monday so they may distribute them to their soldiers. The cards will be divided by the number of soldiers in each unit. A few may be kept for prizes at upcoming MWR events.

According to Sheets, this is part of his job, but he thinks it is something the soldiers need. "It's part of the job to distribute these cards to soldiers, airmen and Marines — not just in this theater, but all over the world," he said. "(The cards are there) so each soldier has a chance to call home to friends and loved ones to say, 'Hi. I made it okay and I'm doing fine.'"

Andrew Solomon, MWR coordinator, is thankful for Sheets' support. "I'd like to personally thank (Sheets). It wasn't solicited, it was volunteered. Without this, soldiers wouldn't be able to communicate with loved ones as much. I really appreciate what he's done to help MWR," he said.

Sheets thinks these cards will have a positive affect on morale. "(The cards will) help boost morale — to (assist in calling) home and being able to share a piece of life here."

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

MWR's Dragon Palace is closed for renovations until further notice.



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
Bagram:	Scattered t-storms H: 90F L: 57F	Partly cloudy H: 93F L: 64F
Kandahar:	Dust H: 100F L: 70F	Clear H: 106F L: 72F
Kabul:	Scattered t-storms H: 90F L: 54F	Haze H: 91F L: 57F
Uzbekistan:	Sunny H: 102F L: 62F	Partly cloudy H: 102F L: 62F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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main illegally,” said Sgt. John McBride, communications, C Co. “If any computer was found using a hub, conducting illegal business or any other violations, it was automatically kicked off.”

“Another reason could be because the address that particular computer was given was never unblocked,” McBride added.

“Each computer has its own physical address that we give it when it comes to us for NIPR and SIPR connections. In order for that address to be activated, we have to physically unblock the address and send it up through the ITT contractors here to let them know the address has been unblocked.

“If the unblocking process doesn’t go through, the computer will come up as unknown and be kicked off,” he said.

Other computer malfunctions

not domain related can be simply due to the area of operations.

“The dust out here has a lot to do with computers not functioning properly,” said Moog. “Keeping some canned air around and cleaning your equipment regularly can eliminate minor problems such as drive malfunctions.”

Due to the high volume of phone calls and computer problems the help desk is receiving, they said patience is appreciated.

“We receive approximately 20 computers on average daily with similar problems and only two soldiers available to work on them at one time,” said McBride.

“We are doing our best to fix all the problems we can as quickly as possible,” he said.

For more information on the help desk’s standard operating procedure or to check up on a work order, on the SIPR, go to the CJ-6 page and click on the Help Desk link.



Photo by Pfc. Terri Rorke

Sprucing up...

An Afghan paints the Morale, Welfare, Recreation's Dragon Palace's wall Wednesday. The building was closed recently for safety reasons, said Arthur Chandler, senior MWR coordinator for Afghanistan. "Renovation is being done to improve the quality of life for soldiers," he said. The building's entire tile was recently redone. Now all of the walls are being painted in and outside the building. The palace should be back open by Tuesday, said Chandler.

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tunity (when enemy soldiers have been spotted in the open) but have also been put to the test supporting troops in contact and having to fire danger close — when their artillery rounds impact close to friendly troops.

A fire mission called by forward soldiers in contact allows for very little error on the part of the artillerymen. Although speed can save the lives of friendly troops, a fault in accuracy is even less forgiving.

“It was just so surreal and these guys had never seen anything like that before,” said Stockert. “I just want everyone to know how well these guys did.”

“Every time (the forward observer) keyed the mike you could hear it. You could hear the grenades going off, you could hear the MK-19’s (40mm grenade machine gun) firing, .50 calibers in the background and you could hear the AK’s firing.”

Sgt. Konrad Reed, C Batt., 3rd Bn. 319th AFAR, serves as a forward observer and travels with the ground elements that the artillery supports in order to call for fire.

“It was more of an adrenaline rush. It was a mixture between nerves and just wanting to help these guys out,” said Cpl. Joshua Owens a soldier in the Fire Direction Center.

“Sgt. Reed and I have been in the battery about the same amount of time so it kind of hit me pretty hard when it was all over with. We knew what we had to do, and once we got the rounds down range, that’s when I was more concerned about what had happened,” he

said.

“You could hear the excitement in Reed’s voice but he was methodical about it,” said Stockert. “We fired a total of eight rounds. We fired it, he gave us an adjustment and then he gave us a repeat. And somewhere in there he said, ‘I’m wounded’ and he was still calling fire.”

Reed suffered wounds from grenade shrapnel, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart Medal. He has since recovered and returned to duty.

Stockert said that the speed and accuracy of all the artillery soldiers from the forward observer to the fire direction center and the gun line may have saved the lives of some of the soldiers who were in close contact with the enemy.

“From the time that we received the mission until shot was a minute and 15 or minute and 20 (seconds).”

“I think the first round hit within 200 meters and his correction would have brought it about 150 meters from him,” said Stockert. “I imagine some of our shrapnel was probably coming by.”

Stockert attributes training to their success.

“The training here is a lot harder than any unit I have ever been in,” said Stockert. “That’s why we train so hard because of that day.”

The soldiers seem pleased to see the hard training come together in combat and glad it played an important roll in the war on terrorism.

“I was waiting to come over here since Sept. 11,” said Spc. Michael Teen of the FDC section. “I finally get to go home and say I’ve done something.”



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Stanford's Carlos Quentin homered twice against the Titans.

Quentin's blasts keep Cardinal alive

OMAHA, Neb. — Stanford pitcher John Hudgins was cruising against Cal State Fullerton in the late innings Wednesday, but Cardinal coach Mark Marquess was nervous anyway.

Carlos Quentin brought instant relief with two outs in the eighth, hitting his second home run of the game in Stanford's 5-3 victory at the College World Series.

The victory — Stanford's first in five games this season against the Titans — forces a rematch Thursday to determine which team will represent its side of the bracket in the best-of-three championship final that starts Saturday.

"I was happy I could contribute because we needed a run at the time," said Quentin, who has 12 homers this season. "I got the green light from coach on a 3-0 pitch. When you can contribute like that, it makes you feel good about yourself."

Hudgins turned in a second straight strong performance, allowing five hits but only one after the third inning in a complete game.

As good as Hudgins was, Marquess said Quentin's eighth-inning homer was a welcome sight.

"There is a huge difference between a one-run lead and two-run lead when you go into the ninth inning," Marquess said.

Townsend dominates defending champ

OMAHA, Neb. — Rice pitcher Wade Townsend was virtually unhittable for six innings. The Owls' offense was almost unstoppable for one.

The combination Monday night produced a 12-2 victory over Texas that goes down as the Longhorns' second-worst loss in their 119-game history at the College World Series.

Townsend struck out 10 and gave up two hits in the last six innings, and Rice used a seven-run sixth inning to pull away.

"It was a case of a very good team on a good day and a very good team on a bad day," Rice coach Wayne Graham said.



Rice's Chris Kolkhorst sprints home for one of the Owls' 12 runs against Texas.

Robotic camera keeps eye on Rosenblatt Stadium

OMAHA, Neb. — College World Series viewers are seeing new camera shots of Rosenblatt Stadium, courtesy of the adjacent Henry Doorly Zoo.

A robotic camera perched atop the 13-story Desert Dome outside the park on the right field line shoots inside and out of the stadium.

ESPN approached the zoo about adding the camera this year and was granted permission, zoo marketing director Julie Neemeyer said.

The idea came a couple years ago when producers saw the construction of the dome.

"It takes beautiful shots," said Ed Placey, coordinating producer for ESPN's coverage of the series. "It takes great wide shots of the stadium, the sunset, and into the zoo."

The camera is on top of the dome next to a usually unmanned building that houses heating and cooling equipment.

To get to the camera on top of the dome, workers must put on a safety harness and climb a ladder that stretches along the outside of the 137-foot dome.

The 84,000-square-foot Desert Dome opened in March 2002 and features a cactus forest, an oasis, a hummingbird aviary, a 30-foot sand dune, a 55-foot mountain and a sandfall — like a waterfall but with flowing sand.

It is advertised as the world's largest geodesic dome, boasting more than 1,700 glazed panels.

Placey said ESPN was pleased with the shots from the camera and hoped to place it in there next year.

Tigers not accustomed to quick exits in Omaha

OMAHA, Neb. — Losing in Omaha is not something LSU is used to.

The Tigers have four College World Series championships under their belts the past 11 years.

After a two year absence in the series, Louisiana State came to Omaha this year with high hopes.

Those hopes were dashed Sunday with a 11-10 loss to South Carolina, making LSU the first team elimi-

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nated in the eight-team field. The Tigers lost 8-2 in the first round to Cal-State Fullerton.

LSU fans were already looking ahead to next season.

"What this did was set the stage for next year," said Julie Rodriguez of New Orleans. "We'll be back."

She and her husband Roger were still clutching gold and purple beads as they walked out of Rosenblatt Stadium following the loss.

"It was a very young team with a lot of injuries," Roger Rodriguez said. "They played well."

The last time LSU went two and out in the College World Series was nine years ago in 1994, the year after they won the national championship.

Good staffs a trademark of warm weather teams

OMAHA, Neb. — Former Texas baseball coach Cliff Gustafson used to say how great it was to coach in his state because of all the strong arms grown there.

The man who coached Roger Clemens, who won his 300th Major League game this week, is one of those who knew the value of having homegrown talent. The 2003 College World Series has a number of coaches who readily agree.

Stanford coach Mark Marquess threw Californian John Hudgins in the opening game of the series Friday. The junior right-hander from Mission Viejo threw two-hit ball over eight innings in the 8-0 shutout of South Carolina.

Cal State Fullerton coach George Horton threw Saratoga, Calif., right-hander Jason Windsor in the nightcap. He helped handcuff second-seeded LSU 8-2.

Hudgins (12-3) is another of a long line of very good Cardinal pitchers. There have been recent-season stars like Jack McDowell, Mike Mussina, Rick Helling, Kyle Peterson, Jeff Austin, Justin Wayne and Jeremy Guthrie — all first-round picks in the major league draft.

Hudgins was Pac-10 pitcher of the year this spring.

Developing pitchers like those, said Marquess, is no real secret.

"Getting good players who want to work hard," he said is the starting point.

"We've got a good tradition. Our young pitchers learn from the older ones," he said. "We don't have to have a freshman come in and be our No. 1 starter. He can live and learn from the older players. I think that is a key, but you have to have a player with talent to build from."

Rice's longtime coach Wayne Graham says it still remains the warm climate states who have the advantage there. His pitching staff has one non-Texas native. Fellow CWS qualifier Texas, the defending national champion, has a roster with 16 homegrown pitchers.

"We really don't spend a lot on recruiting," Graham said. "We probably spend less on recruiting than any Top 10 program because of the talent close to home. We still recruit, we just don't have to go far."

Graham said the development of young pitchers is aided by the environment of the warmer South. It is an advantage that plays heavily into the favor of teams from California, Texas, Arizona and Florida, he said.

Stanford blanks the Gamecocks

OMAHA, Neb. — Stanford's John Hudgins, who had complete-game victories in three of his last four starts, was headed for another Friday in the College World Series opener against South Carolina.

Despite giving up just two hits over eight innings and his team on its way to an 8-0 victory, Hudgins was not allowed to finish what he started.

Kodiak Quick pitched a hitless ninth to wrap up the third CWS shutout since 1995 and the first two-hitter since 1993.

Hudgins had no qualms with Stanford coach Mark Marquess' decision.

"This isn't a one-game tournament," Hudgins said. "It isn't about individual performances. It's about winning ball games."

Hudgins threw only 84 pitches, which allows Marquess to bring him back on short rest.

"And if we can't keep an 8-0 lead with our bullpen," Marquess said, "we should go home."

*"Can I call you back honey,
I'm kinda' busy right now."*



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support